winter. The pot stands at the base of the south-facing brick wall of my house, on a paved patio, under the overhang of the house roof. In summer the pot stands in a plastic washing bowl which retains some of the rain-water which falls on it, but in the winter the bowl has often been removed to prevent the pot standing for long periods in accumulated rain-water and becoming water-logged. The pot is in full sun all day except the early morning. Most of the summer the soil in the pot looks dry. Occasionally I water it, just frequently enough to keep the plants alive. In the first years I removed some of the dead plant material in the winter, and found larvae at their base, but in the last two years I have left the plant material *in situ*. Apart from withdrawing a few corpses of the adults, this Bright Wave population has been left alone. Each year in late June or early July I see a few adults at rest on the netting or on the plants, but I have not had the time to count them throughout the season. I doubt the adult population numbers much more than a dozen adults and in 2003 I saw no more than three on any one occasion when I was around to look. In 2001, I noted eight adults on one occasion. In 2002, I noticed the first two of the year on 28 June and four were seen on 4 July. If the population persists into 2004, I intend to keep a closer watch to assess numbers. The culture was not set up with the deliberate intention of maintaining it all these years, but its fortuitous persistence has become something of a fascination and it will be left in place until two years pass with no adults seen.

This note was prepared in my post as part-time Reader at Writtle College, University of Essex, to whom I am most grateful for this opportunity and for financial support. My research work on the Bright Wave between 1997 and 2002 was conducted and financed as part of the English Nature Species Recovery Programme.— PAUL WARING, 1366 Lincoln Road, Werrington, Peterborough, PE4 6LS (E-mail: paul_waring@btinternet.com).

Rivulet *Perizoma affinitata* (Stephens) (Lep.: Geometridae) flying by day

Red Campion *Silene dioica* flourishes in patches of deep fertile soil on the sloping coastal cliffs of Banffshire. The Rivulet *Perizoma affinitata*, a species normally associated with woodland edge and scrub, accompanies its foodplant despite the treeless habitat. Elsewhere in Britain I have only seen this moth sparingly, but here it can be plentiful. Also, as the following observations show, it is partly diurnal. I have not noticed this behaviour elsewhere, nor is it mentioned in the literature, so it may be a purely local habit. Alternatively, it might be more evident here because the moths are so numerous and easily visible. Diurnal flight is well-known in other members of this genus such as Pretty Pinion *P. blandiata* and Heath Rivulet *P. minorata*.

On 12 May 2000 (a very early date so far north), at Tarlair, O.S. Grid Ref. NJ 7264, near Macduff, about a dozen Rivulets were seen flying actively in the mid-morning sunshine in a gully on the coastal cliffs. The largely white hindwings made the moths very conspicuous. All those netted were males.

On 4 June 2003, again at Tarlair, over a dozen moths were seen flying naturally and vigorously in hot and sunny weather at about 11.00 hours BST. They were mostly worn and faded, and again looked conspicuously pale. Apart from one female nectaring at Red Campion, all appeared to be males.

On 5 June 2003, a visit to Tarlair at 20.00 hours BST revealed at least ten Rivulets fluttering gently amongst the foodplant in the evening sunshine. This time, all were females. Their flight was very different from the rapid, active males in the morning. They flew slowly, almost hovering in front of a Red Campion flower before settling on it. Then they probed the throat of the flower with their abdomen. Actual egg-laying was not observed, but on a later visit (15 June 2003) numerous off-white eggs of this species were found on the developing green seedpods, normally only one egg per pod. No eggs were found on the remains of male flowers.

The grub-like caterpillar of this species lives wholly concealed within the pod, feeding on the seeds. Since Red Campion is dioecious, it must be important for Rivulets to lay only on female plants. The behaviour of the female moths suggested that they were indeed determining the sex of a flower before laying on it.

Many larvae were reared from collected eggs, their numbers inadvertently augmented each time fresh foodplant was added. Virtually all pupated inside a tough cocoon of dry frass and chewed remains of seeds, spun up within an empty seedpod. So consistent was this method of pupation that I assumed it would also apply in the wild. Later that summer, however, I examined many hundreds of old seedpods at the Tarlair site without finding a single Rivulet cocoon, though numerous pods showed signs of past occupation by larvae. A salutary lesson, of course: behaviour in captivity is not always the same as in the wild.– Roy Leverton, Whitewells, Ordiquhill, Cornhill, Banffshire AB45 2HS.

SUBSCRIBER NOTICE

Wanted: specimens of British Tortricidae for DNA analysis

I am trying to solve some systematic problems concerning the arrangement of genera and their synonymy within the Tortricidae. This is especially important in the Tribe Olethreutini, where differences are slight and often doubtful. Current research focuses on DNA analysis and I am keen to obtain material from a wide geographical area. I would welcome British material that is no older than year 2000 (ideally, fresh material collected in this current season). **All British species are required;** both males and females are needed for each. Ideally, specimens will have been killed by freezing; if ethyl acetate, cyanide or other killing agents have been used it would help to have a note of this. Material preserved in alcohol (e.g., from Malaise traps) is **not** suitable. **Specimens do not need to be set**, but should simply be pinned with a micro pin and the wings roughly spread away from the abdomen (e.g., micro pin onto a flat sheet of plastozote and spread wings by gently blowing, removing from this board after just a couple of days). Specimens need only to be identifiable – not necessarily in good condition. The DNA sampling will damage the specimens in any case and I just need to be able to identify the species without the need to relax the specimen (which may itself adversely affect the DNA). **It is not necessary for the specimens to be identified by the sender**.